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MUS RUSTICUS.

THE Exportation of One Hundred and Thirty Thouſand Pounds in Gold, into the Gulf of *Holland*, in One Month and Eight Days laſt paſt, as appears by our Bills of Entry; with a fair Surmiſe, that a greater quantity hath been Clandeſtinely Ship'd off, as likewiſe a large quantity of Silver, being join'd to the difficulty, that the Woollen-Manufacturers of this Kingdom, for a conſiderable time, laſt paſt, hath been under, in getting Silver for Gold, and that without ſome ſpeedy ſupply of Silver Coin in Shillings and Six-pences, this noble Commerce which Providence hath happily bleſs'd us with, muſt inevitably ſink; will be a fair Juſtification of this Rural Addreſs. When ſo violent a Draught is upon us in Silver and Gold, we can expect no ſupply from Foreign Importation, nor will a total ſtop to the Exportation relief, when Silver and Gold is as well taken in at *Cadiz* as here, to ſupply the Occaſions of thoſe Trades which drain our Treaſure. When St. *Paul* preach'd down the Temple of *Diana*, the *Silver-Smiths* exerted their whole Strength to ſupport their Profit, and as now left no Stone unturn'd to Maintain their Ground. Even reprinted Dr. *Lock*'s *Republican Poſition*, that Authority had no power in altering the value of our Silver. What (in great Submiſſion) I offer at, is an immediate Advance of our Silver Coin, and a Security to it when Coin'd. The Ounce of Silver which from *Ozlwright* the *Saxon* King continued for many Hundred Years at Twenty-Pence; was advanced to Thirty-Pence in the Second Year of King *Henry* the 6th; it was advanced to Forty-Pence by King *Edward* the 4th; to Forty Five-Pence and Forty Eight-Pence in the Reign of King *Henry* the 8th; and to Sixty-Pence by King *Edward* the 6th. The Ground upon which theſe Advances were made, could be no other, then the keeping an Equality with Foreign Standards with whom we Traded. And by this Rule (which was ſtrenuouſly urg'd) at the laſt new Coinage of our Silver, our Standard ought to be advanced to Sixty Five-Pence, to equal the Rix-Dollars of *Germany*, and *Holland*, and the Crown piece of *France*. This being undeniable matter of Fact, his Majeſty's Proclamation in adjuſting this important Affair, in an Equality with Foreign Standards, and giving that Advantage to thoſe of his own Subjects, that brought Plate to be Coined into Shillings and Sixpences, it would immediately advance a Stock of Silver Coin, and be a relief to Trade, allowing the advance to our Silver Coin now ſtanding, (which I take to be much leſs then reported by ſome) unto a limited time, that it might be new Stamp'd; which advantage being ſtrictly limited to his Majeſties Natural Born Subjects it could not be look'd upon with an ill Eye, altho' an eaſy Profit; by this expedient, according to our nice Politicians, we ſhall have as much for our Crown as it Weighs, and it will be ſome ſmall ſecurity againſt its being melted down. And as I have been here Labouring for this conveniency to Negotiate this noble Fabrick of ours. I am now to fix this Treaſure of our Silver Coin by an expedient which is much more Advantagious to our Woollen-Manufactury. And in order to this, I muſt beg leave to recite the Reſtrictions under which the Flouriſhing Trade of Queen *Elizabeth* was carried on. All Intereſt of Mony was ſtop'd by her Brother King *Edward* the 6th, which turn'd Drones into Bees. The Wear of Silks was ſtop'd by her Siſter Queen *Mary*, by all Perſons under the degree of Quality, and if any Servant wore any Silk, if the Maſter did not put her forth of her Service in Fourteen Days, or did retain her again, he forfeited One Hundred Pounds. By a Law made in the Fifth Year of Queen *Elizabeth*, no Foreign Fabrick could be ſold otherwiſe than for ready Mony. And in the Thirteen Year of Queen *Elizabeth*, it was Enacted, that every Perſon above the Age of Seven Years, ſhall wear upon the Sabbath and Holy-Day, a Knit Cap made of the Wool of this Kingdom, under the Penalty of Ten Groats for every Day not wearing it, except Maids, Ladies, *&c.* What I now, in great Submiſſion, propoſe, is the Revival of this laſt Act, in changing the Name of Cap to Hat; in the making of which, we are now come to great Perfection, and there can be no more decent Diſtinction or becoming Dreſs to our Women. This Hat will be like the Stern of a Ship, guide all other Habits of the Body, and introduce the wear of the Fine-Flaxen-Linnens of *Germany*, *Flanders* and *Holland* Lace, *&c.* which are the Natural Effects of our Woollen-Manufacture, and ſtop the wear of Muſlings; to purchaſe which, our Silver is now iſſued out, and what I farther propoſe, is, a ſtrict Injunction of the wear of the Woollen-Manufacture of this Kingdom by all Servants for their upper Garments, with a Penalty upon the Maſter if the ſaid Act was not complied with; as was the Caſe of Silk in the Reign of Queen *Mary*. In the moſt Flouriſhing Reigns of this Kingdom, as *Edward* the 3d, *Edward* the 4th, *Henry* the 7th, *Edward* the 6th, and Queen *Elizabeth*; we were under Sumptuary Laws and a total ſtop put to the Cotton Commodities of *India*; and Preſidents are ſafe rules to walk by. And as this Diſtinction will tend to the Encouragement of our own Products, and be a means to keep the Ballance of Trade upon our ſide, and ſecure our Silver Coin, it will likewiſe be an inducement to Virtue and Good Manners, and Servants will not think themſelves above their proper Imployments.

In Kerſey Joan *her Pot did Scower,*
Dreſs'd in Callico, ſhe look'd demure;
Deſpis'd that Work, ſhe got it done,
By Wife well ſtuff'd of Thraſher John.

Sic ceſinit mus Ruſticus & redit in rurem.